HF Happenings

May

- 1 - Worker's Day
- 3 to 5 - Riebeek Valley Olive Festival
- 5 - ZS3 Sprint
- 9 - Ascension Day
- 10 - Solar eclipse
- 11 - AWA AM Valve QSO party; Time Aviation SAAF Museum Air Show, AFB Swartkops
- 12 - AWA SSB Valve QSO party
- 10 to 12 - Nuy Valley Festival; Celtic Festival, Edenvale
- 12 - Mother's Day; Mother's Day Vintage Train to Cullinan
- 16 - Radio Amateur Exam
- 17 to 19 - Dayton Hamvention, USA
- 18 - SA AMSAT Space Symposium
- 18 and 19 - The Day of the YLs'
- 19 - Pentecost Sunday
- 23 to 26 - Good Food and Wine Show, Cape Town
- 24 May to 2 June - The Royal Show, Pietermaritzburg
- 25 and 26 - CQ WPX CW Contest; Sasol Bird Fair
- 25 - Lunar eclipse
- 26 - SARL Digital Contest

ICASA Answers Questions around Payments and Licences

Following requests from members the SARL asked ICASA to clarify license payments and the issuing of licence documents. In its reply ICASA said that multiple year licences are not issued automatically after payment of the prescribed fees. A renewal application form for such a licence must first be submitted and the Authority has started to implement this process from the 2013/14 licence year. Any licensee who has paid the fee for a multiple year licence during the previous licence year must still submit the application form before the licence period can be amended. Licensees who do not submit the application form will be credited with the amount paid which will be off-set against the annual licence fees and a new invoice will be rendered once the fee is used after the fourth year.

"A licensee may request that a licence be issued for a period of one to five years. The application forms that were distributed and used by the Authority for this licence year did not provide for an indication of the period requested. It was therefore the responsibility of the licensee to indicate separately the amount of years that the licence must be issued for. The majority of radio amateurs have merely completed the application form which shows only the intent to renew the licence. The Authority has therefore issued annual licences to those licensees that did not indicate the amount of years to be licensed. They can still indicate their intent to amend the licence period after which a new updated licence will be issued."

"The Authority had some challenges this licence year in acquiring the licence stationary which lead to a delay in issuing the paid-up licences. All these licences have now been issued and posted and licensees should receive their licences in due course.

If you have not completed form B, please do so. It is available on the SARL home page.

A typical Government Department answer indicating they are not sure of what is going on!!

Nominations for MTN Radio Amateur of the Year Awards Invited

The South African Amateur Radio Development Trust invites nominations for the 2013 MTN Radio Amateur of the Year Awards. There are three award categories: Garth Milne Technical Innovation Award, MTN Radio

Current Summits-on-the-Air (SOTA) activities are announced at
www.sotawatch.org
And more SOTA information can be found at www.sota.org.uk

(Continued from page 1)

Amateur of the Year Award and the MTN Amateur Radio Community Service Award.

The Garth Milne Technical Innovation Award is made for the support, development and application of Technological Innovation in Amateur in South Africa. The recipient will be a person who has promoted the use of technology in amateur radio at club level, nationally, at schools or tertiary education institutions.

The MTN Radio Amateur of the Year award is made for the support and development of the Amateur Radio Service in South Africa, not for individual achievements such as DXCC and other operational awards or contests. The recipient will be a person who has given of his or her expertise and time to the promotion of Amateur Radio in South Africa.

The MTN Amateur Radio Community Service Award recognises a radio amateur or a group of radio amateurs for service to the community. Community service can be assistance to a handicapped radio amateur, communications support during a sporting event or a disaster situation like a road accident or a natural disaster like a flood, veldt fires or an earthquake. Nominations are invited for an individual or a group of people like a radio club, or an association.

Each award carries a R2 000 cash award and a 2013 ARRL Handbook. Nomination forms and full details are available on www.amateurradio.org.za. The closing date for nomination is 10 June with the award presentation on 26 June 2013 at a lunch at the Midrand Protea Hotel.

New SAATI Award

One of the functions of a national body for amateur radio is to recognise outstanding ability and achievements on a national level. The South African Radio League (SARL) has done this for many years, providing a variety of awards for both service and operating achievements.

The South African Amateur Telecommunication Institute (SAATI) has tasked the SARL to present an annual award on its behalf. Thanks to some recent substantial donations by SAATI, the SARL is in a position to honour outstanding development work by radio amateurs in the digital field. This will be done by means of the SAATI award, an award of R4 000 for development work in the digital field, on either hardware or software.

SARL members and affiliated clubs may nominate a radio amateur at any time. The award nominations close on 31 January and will be presented at the following SARL AGM. Nominations should include a detailed motivation setting out what the nominee has achieved and what the impact of his development is making on amateur radio.

Address nominations to the secretary@sarl.org.za or contact the SARL Secretary or the SARL Awards Manager for assistance.

The SARL takes this opportunity to thank SAATI for their donation on behalf of all South African amateurs.

SARL 80 Metre QSO Party results

The contest committee received 11 logs and 1 check log for the first leg of the 2013 SARL 80 Metre QSO party held on Thursday 4 April 2013. Fifty-two stations were operating during the contest – *I wonder where the other 40 logs are?*

The Division activity of stations operated during contest - Div 1 = 12, Div 2 = 5, Div 3 = 2, Div 4 = 7, Div 5 = 7, Div 6 = 20 and Other = 3. The results are as fol-

*Have **YOU** done anything today to Promote **Amateur Radio?***

(Continued from page 2)

lows:

1st Christopher v Rensburg, ZS3R - 485 points
2nd Lukas Holtshausen, ZS6LH - 430 points
3rd Abe Zwiegelaar, ZS1ZS - 425 points
4th Dawn Snyders, ZS5ME - 345 points
5th Denis Wheeler, ZR6DNS - 290 points
6th Ken Gurr, ZS6KN - 250 points
7th Russel Mycroft, ZS1VK - 205 points
8th Dennis Green, ZS4BS, and Marius Snyman, ZR6MS - 160 points
9th Eddie Leighton, ZS6BNE - 130 points
10th Kurt Linsin, ZS5KL - 30 points

Check log Louis de Bruin, ZS5LP

FOC Special Event

Just a reminder that starting 1 May, look for stations signing "FOC" in their suffix call signs throughout the end of the month. Activity is to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the "First Class CW Operators' Club." List of "FOC" stations are available at http://www.g4foc.org/Default.aspx?pageId=1537891. Complete details, as well as special awards are available, at the FOC web page at http://www.g4foc.org

Look out for Belize - V3FOC; Bulgaria - LZ75FOC; Canada - VA3FOC, VE6FOC; Chagos Island - VQ975FOC; Cyprus - 5B75FOC; Denmark - OZ75FOC; Czech Republic - OK7FOC; England - GB75FOC; France - TM75FOC; Germany - DJ75FOC, DK75FOC; Guernsey - GP4FOC; Hawaii - KH6FOC; Isle of Man - GT4FOC; Israel - 4X75FOC; Italy - II0FOC, II6FOC, II7FOC; Lithuania - LY75FOC; Malawi - 7Q7FOC; Mauritania - 5T1FOC; Northern Ireland - GN4FOC; Russia - R75FOC; Sardinia - IS0FOC; Saudi Arabia - HZ1FOC; Scotland - GS4FOC; Slovenia - S575FOC; The Netherlands - PA75FOC; UAE - A65FOC; Ukraine - EM75FOC, EO75FOC; USA - K0FOC, K2FOC, K6FOC, K7FOC, N4FOC, N8FOC, W1FOC, W2FOC, W3FOC, W5FOC, W6FOC, W9FOC, WA1FOC, WG4FOC; Wales - GC4FOC and Zambia - 9J75FOC. In addition, also M0RSE will also count as an FOC-suffix call. Information about the FOC 75 Certificate for contacting FOC members during this special on-air event can be found at www.g4foc.org

Riding the Shortwaves: Exploring the Magic of Amateur Radio

Riding the Shortwaves: Exploring the Magic of Amateur Radio is a new book by author Don Keith, N4KC, which contains material of special interest to newcomers to amateur radio and those thinking of joining its ranks. This includes easy-to-understand chapters on antennas, choosing a first station, and a tour of the amateur radio high-frequency bands. There are also short fictional and satirical pieces that use humour or drama to show the various facets of the hobby. According to Don, that is why he too the approach that he did:

I felt there was a need for a book for people who were just on the verge of either committing to amateur radio or walking away from it. So I had to think about what is keeping people from entering the hobby and what would it take to push them over the cliff."

Don also notes that it is just a matter of being in the right place at the right time and in the right situation for ham radio to become a part of someone's life:

"That was my case. My dad was not an amateur. He was a television repairman and he had a short-wave receiver. We used to sit around and listen to amateurs; to Sputnik and all sorts of things like that and the bug bit."

Don's book also counters the notion that Facebook, the web, Twitter, smart phones and other new technology have made amateur radio obsolete. On the contrary, the author maintains, in its 100th year, the hobby is more vibrant and exciting than ever.

Riding the Shortwaves: Exploring the Magic of Amateur Radio is available in both paper and electronic release from booksellers everywhere including Amazon.com.

YOTA - Youngsters on the Air

From 5 to 12 August 2013, an international youth radio camp will be held in Estonia, organized by Estonian Radio Amateurs Union. During this week, teams of young radio amateurs from 10 different European countries will be participating during different activities: presentations, competitions, visiting radio stations, observatory, etc.

As two previous events in Romania and Belgium/Netherlands have shown, it will be a great experience for the young hams, which they will never forget.

When: 5 to 12 August 2013

Participants: 10 teams from different European member associations of IARU Region 1. A team consists of a team leader, who could be an older person and four team members in the age between 14 and 25 years.

Location: Near city of Tartu, Estonia.

Fees: 30% of travel costs, plus participation fee €50. All other costs will be covered by the Youth in Action programme of the European Commission.

YOTA - Youngsters On The Air Facebook Group
https://www.facebook.com/groups/youngstersontheair/

Jüri Ruut, ES5JR
Chairman and Youth Coordinator of ERAU, es5jr@erau.ee

ILLW becomes interesting

The battle for the International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend leadership, held in August, is tied between Australia and Germany with 40 registrations each, out of more than 220 from 30 nations around the world.

The USA has 23, England 18, Argentina 12, Ireland and Scotland 9, Canada, Netherlands and Sweden on 8, Portugal and Puerto Rico 4, while Finland, Poland, Northern Ireland and New Zealand each has 3. They are followed by Belgium, Denmark, Cuba, Malaysia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Ukraine and Wales on 3, and single entries from Curacao, Chile, France, Honduras, Italy and Spain.

With registrations and countries numbers only at about the halfway mark, but ahead of this time last year, things are really starting to heat up.

To register a lighthouse, lightship or marine beacon for the International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend, visit the dedicated website www.illw.net.

The International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend takes place on 17 and 18 August 2013 at a lighthouse near you.

ADIF to DX Marathon Conversion Programme

John, K9EL, DX Marathon Manager, reports, "We are announcing a completely new version of the ADIF to CQ Marathon Conversion Programme written by Jim, AD1C. Version 13.1, which is now available for download, is a significant enhancement of the previous ADIF conversion program. Version 13.1 creates a completed DX Marathon score sheet from your ADIF file – no more copy/paste required. Version 13.1 will only work with the Excel version of the DX Marathon.

Score Sheet version 2013.5 or later, so please delete any copies of earlier score sheets you may have. The latest scoresheet can be down-loaded at www.dxmarathon.com/Submission/2013/Submission2013.htm

Although this new programme has been thoroughly tested, there may still be bugs and we would appreciate hearing about any issues. As always, this program is a tool to assist you in submitting your DX Marathon score – you must review the final output and the author assumes no responsibility for any errors or omissions in your submission. Version 13.1 of the program can be downloaded at http://software.ad1c.us/marathon

I wish to recognize the superb efforts by Jim, AD1C, in creating this excellent DX Marathon tool.

John K9EL, DX Marathon Manager

Join the DXMarathon Group on Yahoo Groups!

ADIF County Conversion tool

Version 5.0 of Jim AD1C's ADIF County Conversion tool http://software.ad1c.us/ADIF_County/ is now available. This program takes an ADIF file from a contest logger like WriteLog or N1MM, and converts the contest-specific county abbreviations into real ADIF field values, which can be imported into a general-purpose logging program.

Operating Tip

You may have read the DX Code of Conduct that is directed at DXers, presenting guidelines for operating in a way that could bring order and make pileups more civil. Less widely known is that "The DX Code of Conduct" web pages also contain a set of guidelines for DXpeditionners or DXpeditionners Code. To clarify this situation, DX University http://www.dxuniversity.com/ offers clearly delineated guidelines for both DXpeditionners and DXers. They are referred to separately as "Best Practices for DXpedition Operating" and "Best Practices for Courteous and Efficient DXing" on the DX University web site. This might be a real good time to read both!
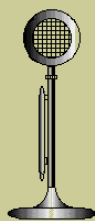
This and That

From the weekly Make: Newsletter www.newsletter.makezine.com comes a handy tip for gluers: "After using Shoe Goo or contact cement in those toothpaste-type tubes, first wipe the threaded neck after use, and then apply a thin coat of petroleum jelly on the threads only. You will be able to twist the cap off with ease every time." Matthew Gryczan

Here is another handy project - a mobile-phone charger that uses standard AA batteries! A little soldering and a few parts create a power converter that plugs into the USB port of your phone. This could be terrifically useful gadget when your usual power source...does not. http://electronicdesign.com/power/adapters-charge-
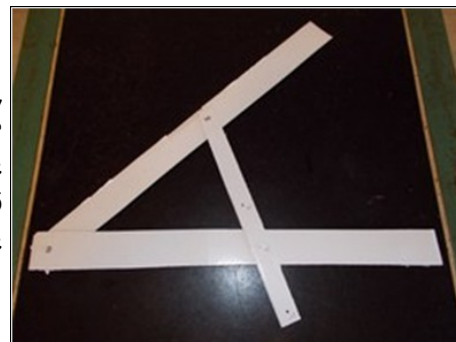
(Continued from page 5)
cell-phones-using-standard-aa-batteries

How high is that thing, anyway? Trees, towers, antennas, buildings - they all yield their secrets to the proper use of a clinometer. You can learn how to make and use one in this Instructables article http://www.instructables.com/id/Using-a-clinometer-to-measure-height/

Made from three strips of foam-core board, some handy screws and nuts, and whatever carpenter's level is at hand, this inexpensive clinometer only does two angles - 30 and 45 degrees. That keeps the math simple and the price is right! (Photo by NØAX)

Hams are inventive and like to "repurpose" stuff. My personal vice is acquiring jars and plastic bins for putting parts in... but let's not talk about that. Check out the 99 Life Hacks website http://siriuslymeg.tumblr.com/post/33738057928/99-life-hacks-to-make-your-life-easier for good ideas in general and many will immediately be seen to have applications around the shack and workbench! (Thanks, Joanna W6YL)

The Super Check Partial database

I will be releasing a new version of the Super Check Partial database files on Wednesday 8 May 2013. I am requesting your logs for input to the database files. At any time, please attach in an email the same Cabrillo format log that you submitted to the contest sponsor and send it to logs@supercheckpartial.com

My most recent request for logs was on 29 January 2013. If you have already sent me your logs, there is no reason to send them again. Logs from any contest within the last 24 months are always appreciated. Some of the more commonly submitted logs are from - CQ WW DX - CW, Phone, RTTY; CQ WPX - CW, Phone, RTTY; CQ 160 M - CW, Phone; ARRL DX - CW, Phone; ARRL Sweepstakes - CW, Phone; ARRL RTTY Roundup; ARRL 10 M; ARRL 160 M; IARU Radiosport; Russian DX Contest and Worked All Europe - CW, Phone, RTTY

More information on SCP can be found at www.supercheckpartial.com. Thanks for your help! Bob, WA1Z

History This Week for the week starting 6 May

1660 Isaack B Fubine of Savoy, in The Hague, patents macaroni

1718 James Puckle, a London lawyer, patents world's first machine gun

1752 Benjamin Franklin first tests the lightning rod

1851 Dr John Gorrie patents a "refrigeration machine"

1888 George Eastman patents "Kodak box camera"

1896 First horseless carriage show in London (featured 10 models)

1899 Cylinder Lawn mower patented

1928 General Electric opens first TV-station (Schenectady NY)

1937 The Hindenburg burned while landing at the naval air station at Lakehurst, New Jersey

1979 Radio Shack releases TRSDOS 2.3 computer

2000 Conjunction of Sun, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn and the Moon

HF Happenings

GAREC 2013 to precede Ham Radio in Friedrichshafen next month

The 2013 Global Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Conference (GAREC) http://www.garec2013.ch/ will take place on 25 to 27 June in Zurich, Switzerland, immediately preceding Europe's largest Amateur Radio gathering, Ham Radio in Friedrichshafen, Germany, from 28 to 30 June http://www.hamradio-friedrichshafen.de/ham-en/. GAREC 2013 will be combined with Switzerland's Convention of Amateur Radio Emergency Communication, on 27 June 27.

GAREC, held annually since 2005, provides an opportunity for emergency communicators to discuss recent events, technical solutions to problems and how to find cooperation with professional partners. Attendees have an interest in providing emergency communication via Amateur Radio during training exercises or in response to disasters.

While GAREC 2013 will primarily focus on Amateur Radio emergency communication in Europe, all radio amateurs who are interested in providing public service via Amateur Radio are invited to attend. This year's topics include the relevance of Amateur Radio Emergency Communication in the First World and the HAMNET high speed data network, as well as presentations from the three IARU regions and presentations from groups with recent disaster relief communications operations.

According to USKA Emergency Communications Coordinator Stefan Streif, HB9TTQ, government delegations or authorities might question if, in today's world, Amateur Radio is really necessary. "Most [European officials] believe that … the infrastructure is so good and technical level so high that a disaster could not affect a wide area," he said. "Maybe they are correct in one point: The topography in Central Europe is special, and the infrastructure is built to maintain a high level of security. A disaster affecting a large area would be very rare in this part of Europe. Even in the event of an earthquake, individual sections might be manageable; only a blackout over a long period of time could be considered a disaster with a large affected area. As a result, we need other systems of emergency communication in this part of the world."

Registration for GAREC 2013 must be completed by 20 May. For those attending Ham Radio after GAREC, transportation to Friedrichshafen will be provided for a fee. For more information, please visit the GAREC 2013 website at http://www.garec2013.ch/.

And you thought the elevation of your home is high! Look where this guy stays!